Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for forming a stent of a polymer material, the~~ process comprising the steps of:

a) forming a generally tubular stent of ~~said~~ polymer material;

b) radially expanding the stent to produce an expanded diameter stent; and then,

c) annealing the expanded diameter stent to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter,

wherein the steps a) - c) are all performed prior to deployment of the stent in a body.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as in claim 1 further comprising at least one time repeating steps b) and c) in sequence on said stent.

3. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein in step a) the stent is formed by molding the polymer material.

4. (Original) A process as in claim 3 wherein the polymer material is thermoplastic.

5. (Original) A process as in claim 4 wherein the polymer material is biodegradable.

6. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the polymer material is selected from the group consisting of poly(alpha-hydroxy acid), polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers; modified cellulose; collagen or other connective proteins; adhesive proteins; hyaluronic acid; polyanhydrides; polyphosphoesters; poly(amino acids); copolymers thereof; and mixtures of any of said materials.

7. (Original) A process as in claim 6 wherein the polymer material is a poly(alpha-hydroxy acid) selected from the group consisting of homopolymers and copolymers of polylactide (PLA), poly-L-lactide (PLLA), poly-D-lactide (PDLA), polyglycolide (PGA), polydioxanone, polycaprolactone, poly(hydroxybutyrate), polygluconate, and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature

below the glass transition temperature of the polymer material.

9. (Original) A process as in claim 8 wherein the step b) is performed at room temperature.

10. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the step c) is performed at a temperature above the glass transition temperature of the polymer material.

11. (Original) A process as in claim 10 wherein the step c) is performed at a temperature within the range of about 90°C to about 150°C.

12 - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for forming a tubular article of a polymeric material, the~~ process comprising the steps of:

a) forming a generally tubular article of ~~said~~ polymeric material;

b) radially expanding the article to produce an expanded diameter article; and then,

c) annealing the expanded diameter article to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter,

wherein the steps a) - c) are all performed prior to deployment of the tubular article in a body, and wherein at least one time steps b) and c) are repeated in sequence on said tubular article.

16. (Original) A medical device adapted for body lumen navigation and/or treatment produced by the process of claim 15.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for forming a tubular article of a polymeric material, the~~ process comprising the steps of:

a) forming a generally tubular article of ~~said~~ polymeric material;

b) radially expanding the article to produce an expanded diameter article; and then,

c) annealing the expanded diameter article to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter,

wherein the steps a) - c) are all performed prior to deployment of the tubular article in a body,

and wherein the polymer material is a biodegradable polymer.

18. (Currently Amended) A process as in claim 17 wherein at least one time steps b) and c) are repeated in sequence on said tubular article.

19. (Original) A process as in claim 17 wherein the polymer material is selected from the group consisting of poly(alpha-hydroxy acid), polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers; modified cellulose; collagen or other connective proteins; adhesive proteins; hyaluronic acid; polyanhydrides; polyphosphoesters; poly(amino acids); copolymers thereof; and mixtures of any of said materials.

20. (Original) A medical device adapted for body lumen navigation and/or treatment produced by the process of claim 17.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for forming a stent of a polymeric material, the~~ process comprising the steps of:

a) forming a tube of ~~said~~ polymeric material;

b) radially expanding the tube to produce an expanded diameter tube;

c) annealing the expanded diameter tube to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter; and subsequently

d) forming a stent from the annealed tube,

wherein the steps a) - d) are all performed prior to deployment of the stent in a body.

22. (Currently Amended) A process as in claim 21 wherein the steps b) and c) are repeated at least once on said tube before step d) is performed.

23. (Original) A process as in claim 21 wherein in step d) the stent is formed by machining or etching the reduced diameter tube obtained from step c).

24. (Previously Presented) A process as in claim 1 wherein in step a) a pattern of

perforations is provided in the tube wall.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A process comprising the steps of:

a) forming a generally tubular article;

b) radially expanding the tubular article to produce an expanded diameter tubular article; and

c) annealing the expanded diameter tubular article to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter,

the process further comprising

d) forming the tubular article as a stent with a pattern of perforations therein.

27. (New) A process as in claim 26 wherein the tubular article formed with said pattern of perforations before said radially expanding step b).

28. (New) A process as in claim 26 wherein the tubular article formed with said pattern of perforations after said annealing step c).

29. (New) A process as in claim 26 further comprising at least one time repeating steps b) and c) on said tubular article.

30. (New) A process as in claim 26 wherein the tubular article is formed of thermoplastic polymer material.

31. (New) A process as in claim 30 wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature below the glass transition temperature of the polymer material.

32. (New) A process as in claim 26 wherein the tubular article is made of biodegradable polymer material.